

SUBCHAPTER B—FEDERAL MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY REGULATIONS

PART 350—COMMERCIAL MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

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SOURCE: 57 FR 40956, Sept. 8, 1992, unless otherwise noted.

§ 350.1 Purpose.

The purpose of this part is to prescribe requirements for Federal assistance to States for programs to adopt and enforce Federal rules, regulations, standards and orders applicable to commercial motor vehicle safety or compatible State rules, regulations, standards and orders.

§ 350.3 Definitions.

As used in this part:

Administrator means the Federal Highway Administrator.

Basic allocation means only those Federal funds distributed by the allocation formula, or the minimum funding level specified in this part.

Basic grant means the funds available to a State for carrying out an approved State Enforcement Plan (SEP), which include, but are not limited to:

- (1) Recruiting and training of personnel, payment of salaries and fringe benefits, the acquisition and maintenance of equipment except those at fixed weigh scales for the purposes of weight enforcement, and reasonable overhead costs needed to operate the program;
- (2) Commencement and conduct of expanded systems of enforcement;
- (3) Establishment of an effective out-of-service and compliance enforcement system; and
- (4) Retraining and replacing staff and equipment.

Commercial motor vehicle means any self-propelled or towed vehicle used on the public highways in commerce to transport passengers or property when:

- (1) The vehicle has a gross vehicle weight rating or gross combination weight rating of 10,001 or more pounds; or
- (2) The vehicle is designed to transport more than 15 passengers, including the driver; or
- (3) The vehicle is used in the transportation of hazardous materials in quantities requiring placarding under regulations issued by the Secretary of Transportation pursuant to the authority of the Hazardous Material Transportation Act, as amended (49 U.S.C. app. 1801 *et seq.*).

Compatible or *compatibility* means, in relation to State laws and regulations pertaining to commercial motor vehicle safety, having the same effect as the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSR) or Federal Hazardous Materials Regulations (FHMR) in that those State rules are either identical or fall within the tolerance guidelines in appendix C to this part.

Motor carrier has the same meaning such term has in § 390.5.

State means a State of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa,

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Guam, or the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas.

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§350.5 Policy.

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) policy is to encourage each State to enforce uniform motor carrier safety and hazardous materials regulations for both interstate and intrastate motor carriers and drivers. The requirements for compliance with safety standards in one State should be compatible with the requirements in another State. A coordinated program of inspection and enforcement activities is needed to avoid duplication of effort, to promote compliance with uniform safety requirements by all types of motor carriers, and to provide a basis for sanctioning carriers for poor safety performance.

§350.7 Objective.

The objective of the Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program (MCSAP) is to reduce the number and severity of accidents and hazardous materials incidents involving commercial motor vehicles by substantially increasing the level and effectiveness of enforcement activity and the likelihood that safety defects, driver deficiencies and unsafe carrier practices will be detected and corrected.

§350.9 Conditions for basic grant approval.

(a) The State shall agree to adopt, and to assume responsibility for enforcing the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSR) (49 CFR parts 390 through 399, except as may be determined by the Administrator to be inapplicable to a State enforcement program) including highway related portions of the Federal Hazardous Materials Regulations (FHMR) (49 CFR parts 107, 171-173, 177, 178 and 180), or compatible State rules, regulations, standards, and orders applicable to motor carrier safety, including highway transportation of hazardous materials.

(b) The State shall submit a State Enforcement Plan (SEP) for the conduct of an effective safety program. Such plan, upon acceptance by the

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FHWA, will serve as the basis for monitoring and evaluating performance of the State under the grant, and will be resubmitted, with revisions as necessary, in applications for reapproval in following years.

(c) The SEP shall designate the lead State agency responsible for administering the plan for the State.

(d) The agencies named to perform functions under the plan shall have the legal authority, resources, and qualified personnel necessary to enforce the FMCSR and FHMR or compatible State rules at the time the State implements the approved SEP.

(e) The State shall allocate adequate funds for the administration of the SEP and the enforcement of the FMCSR and FHMR or compatible State rules.

(f) State laws shall provide for right of entry and inspection adequate to carry out the SEP and provide that the State will grant maximum reciprocity for inspections conducted pursuant to the North American Uniform Driver/Vehicle Inspection standard, through the use of a nationally accepted system allowing ready identification of previously inspected commercial motor vehicles.

(g) The State shall certify that it will maintain its aggregate expenditure of funds by the State and political subdivisions thereof, exclusive of Federal funds, for commercial motor vehicle safety programs and related programs eligible for funding under this part, as required by §350.17 of this part.

(h) The State shall agree to prepare and submit all reports required in connection with the SEP or other conditions of the grant to the FHWA upon request.

(i) The lead State agency shall agree to adopt such uniform reporting requirements and use such uniform forms to record work activities performed under the SEP as may be established and required by the FHWA.

(j) The State shall require registrants of commercial motor vehicles to declare, at the time of registration, knowledge of the FMCSR and FHMR or compatible State rules, as applicable.

(k) The statutory authority of the State to regulate motor carriers shall extend to private motor carriers of